

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

Secretary-General Amre M. Moussa
League of Arab States
c/o Ambassador Hussein Hassona
Arab League Mission to the United States
1100 17th Street, N.W., Suite 602
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are writing to urge your support for reestablishing the humanitarian lifeline that the Government of Sudan has severed by its decision to evict 13 international aid organizations and 6,500 aid workers from Darfur.

As you must be aware, this decision puts over one million Darfuris at immediate risk of starvation and other preventable deaths. The organizations which have had their operating licenses revoked provided over 40% of the humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Their contributions simply cannot be replaced by the organizations left operating in the area.

The international community has been steadfast in its desire to end the conflict in Darfur, yet Sudan continues to take actions that only inflame it. Despite the inability of the Sudanese government, rebel movements, and the international community to bring an end to the conflict, the world's largest humanitarian relief operation has served as a lifeline to the Darfuris. Now that lifeline has been put at risk for purely political reasons by the Sudanese government. The Sudanese regime must be clearly and forcefully told that endangering millions of civilians by expelling aid organizations is unacceptable. Its unconscionable action must be reversed.

We find it extremely disappointing that the Arab League chose to interject politics into a purely humanitarian issue by opposing a United Nations Security Council presidential statement which called for the reinstatement of the humanitarian organizations expelled by Sudan. The Arab League must not accept Khartoum's cynical effort to trade humanitarian access for a suspension of justice. These are two separate and distinct issues, and must remain so. The Arab League must condemn Khartoum's blatant violation of international humanitarian law, and demand that it reverse its expulsion order.

In the past, you have expressed your desire to see an end to the conflict in Darfur. That end will not be hastened by cutting off aid to a quarter of Darfur's population and leaving more than one million Muslims immediately vulnerable to disease and starvation. Nor will it be hastened by acquiescing to the Sudanese government's threats against its own people.

The people of Darfur have suffered enough. Please send an unambiguous message to the Government of Sudan that its actions against the humanitarian organizations are unacceptable, and support efforts to ensure that the humanitarian lifeline is reestablished.

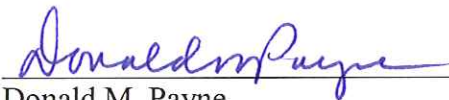
Sincerely,



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



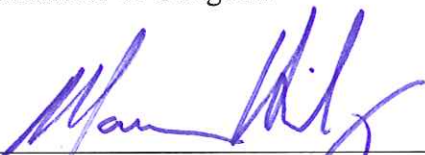
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



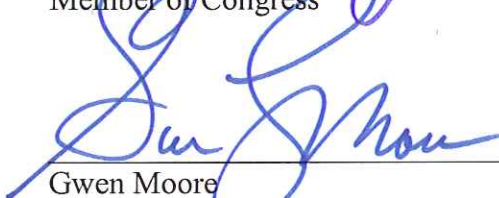
Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



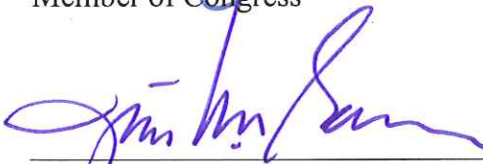
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



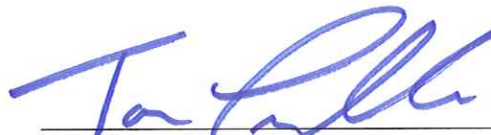
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



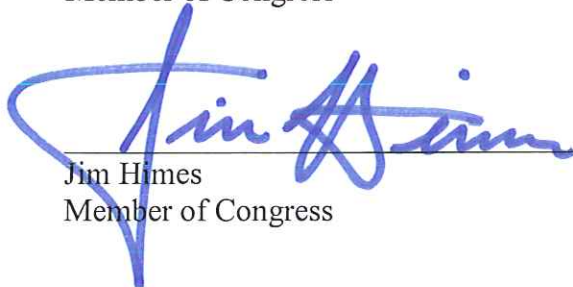
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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Tom Perriello
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



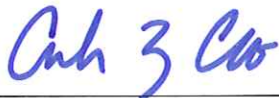
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



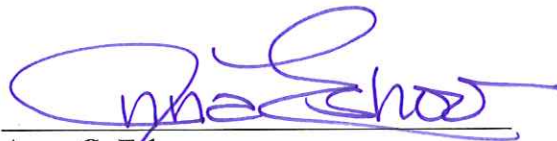
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



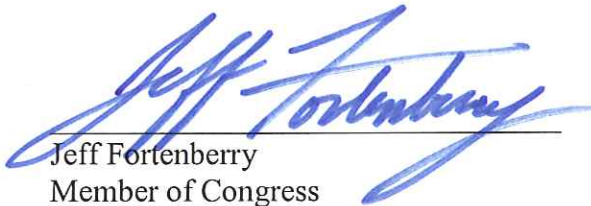
Bob Inglis
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Ahn "Joseph" Cao
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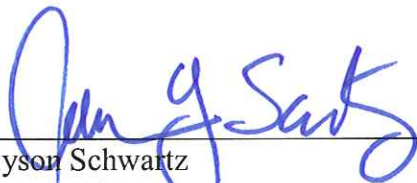
Anna G. Eshoo
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Jeff Fortenberry
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Lois Capps
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Allyson Schwartz
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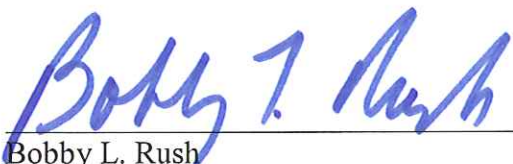
Ellen O. Tauscher
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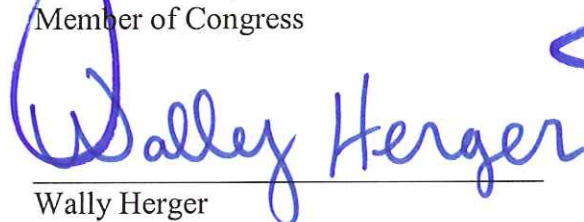
Thaddeus G. McCotter
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Jan Schakowsky
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Bobby L. Rush
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Wally Herger
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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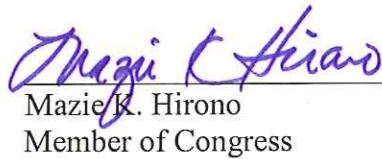


Rosa L. DeLauro
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Jackie Speier
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Michael F. Doyle
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Mazie R. Hirono
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Betty McCollum
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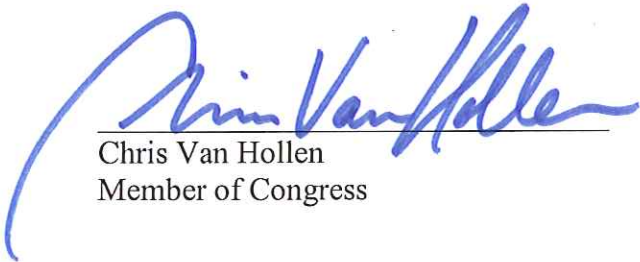

Lloyd Doggett
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Linda Sanchez
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Donna F. Edwards
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Jim McDermott
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Trent Franks
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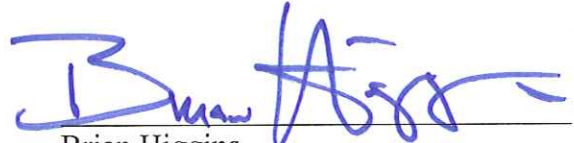

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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Jerry Moran
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Shelley Berkley
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John Boozman
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Joe Pitts
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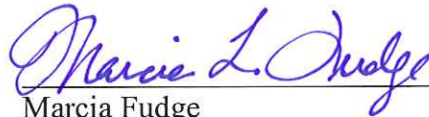
Brad Miller
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Bruce Braley
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Tammy Baldwin
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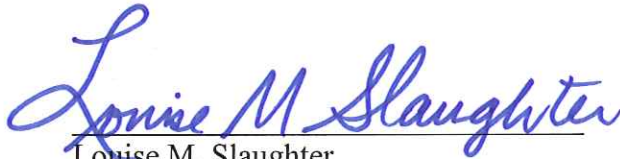
Marcia Fudge
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Lynn Woolsey
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Adam B. Schiff
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Louise M. Slaughter
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Bob Filner
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Rush Holt
Member of Congress



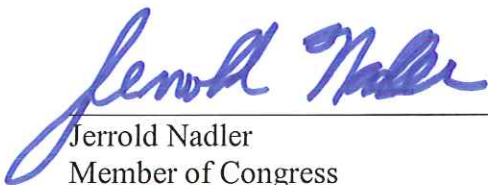
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



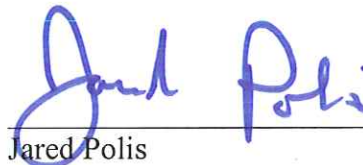
Eliot L. Engel
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Mike McIntyre
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



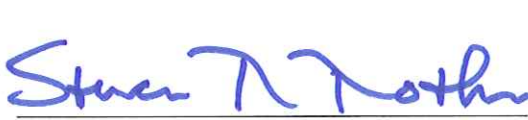
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



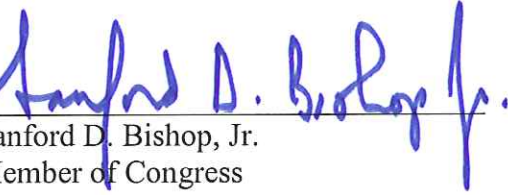
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress




Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



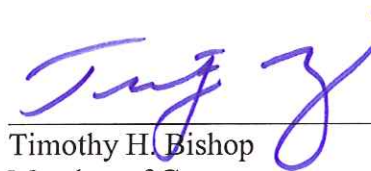
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



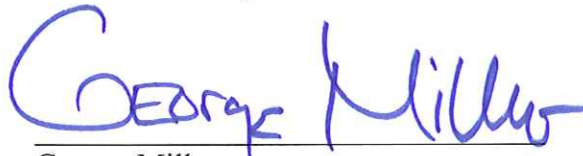
Stephen F. Lynch
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Scott Garrett
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Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



George Miller
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Chris Smith
Member of Congress



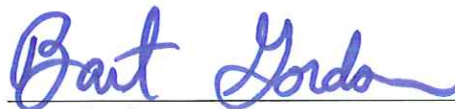
Al Green
Member of Congress



Mark Steven Kirk
Member of Congress




Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

CC: Members of the League of Arab States